WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

Allied Generalship, Planes and Guns Decisive Factor in Tunisia Windup; Farm Situation Improves, Davis Says; Red Drive Perils Nazi Caucasus Hold

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysis and not necessarily of this newspaper.)

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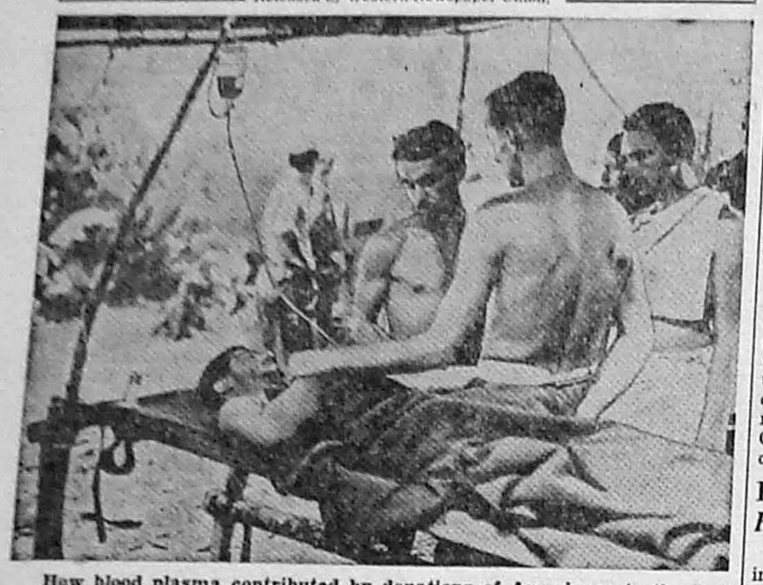

How blood plasma contributed by donations of Americans to the Red Cross is used to save lives on battlefields is illustrated by the above photo of doctors treating a wounded U. S. soldier at a portable field hospital in New Guinea. Clayton Mitchell (left) of Wyandotte, Mich., and Maj. William Garlick of Baltimore, Md., are administering the plasma.

TUNISIA:
Master Generalship

Axis resistance in Tunisia had steadily crumbled as the Allied armies moved inexorably toward their goals. As American artillery pounded the Bizerte harbor area setting fire to wharves and docking facilities, the British First army had swept over the Tunisian plains leading to the capital city of Tunis.

The moves on Bizerte had been expedited by the capture by American and French forces of hilly strongholds protecting Lake Achkel and Lake Bizerte. In mopping up operations in the Mediterranean coastal region the Allies had continued to capture numerous prisoners.

In analyzing the results of the successful offensive, observers credited master Allied generalship with outmaneuvering the Axis. The Allied high command had led the enemy to believe that the principal blows would be struck by General Montgomery's British Eighth army from the south. After the Axis had thrown heavy strength to repel Montgomery, American forces in the Bizerte area and British First army forces before Tunis had struck crushing blows simultaneously.

Europe Drive 'Sure'

As the North African climax had approached, Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, had declared there is "no question but that there will be Allied operations on continental Europe this summer." Expressing his confidence that the Allies would clean up Tunisia in time to permit invasion of the continent this year, Davis added that it might possibly be necessary to leave a pocket of Axis resistance of Bizerte to be reduced by sustained pounding even while continental operations were under way. Following the death of Lt. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers was named U. S. European commander.

STRIKE BAN:
More Power for WLB

Congress moved swiftly to strengthen the government's hand in dealing with strikes.

First step was the senate's overwhelming enactment of legislation empowering the government to take over plants in which war production is stopped by labor disputes and making it a crime to instigate a strike in war plants or mines which have been taken over by the government.

The senate measure was a much-amended version of a bill by Senator Connally of Texas to give congressional sanction for government seizure of struck plants and mines (originally introduced months before, it had lain dormant until John L. Lewis refused to submit the soft coal wage dispute to the War Labor board and the miners' work stoppage resulted. The final version contained a clause giving the WLB legal power to settle and settle labor disputes.

As the bill went to the house, it provided maximum penalties of one year's imprisonment or $5,000 fine upon anyone guilty of inducing a strike or slow-down in a government operated plant.

RUSSIA:
Nazi Setbacks

Hammering at the northeast approaches to Nazi-held Novorossisk, Russian forces had captured numerous towns, including Krymskaya and killed 10,000 German troops in a smash through the Kuban delta bulge of the Caucasus toward the Black sea.

Although the Axis forces were weakened by the break-through, Hitler had been preparing for weeks for action by bringing up fresh troops, tanks and munitions.

The capture of Krymskaya had two strategic benefits. It placed the Red army in a position to seriously menace Novorossisk and it enabled the Russians to cut the German-held railroad between Novorossisk and Protoka, 36 miles northeast of the port.

Significant was a Soviet report announcing the presence of powerful Russ naval units in the Black sea, led by the flagship "Paris Commune." This sea force was awaiting an opportunity to pounce on any German attempt to evacuate troops from the Caucasus.

FARM PROSPECTS:
Situation Improves

Heartening tidings that the farm labor, equipment and supply situations are showing "improved promise" were heralded by Chester C. Davis, food administrator.

"A current appraisal of the farm labor situation," he declared in a letter to James F. Byrnes, economic stabilization director, "indicates that there is an available labor supply sufficient to produce and harvest a 1943 crop up to the levels of the announced goals."

While not entirely satisfactory, Mr. Davis said, the farm machinery and supply situation for 1943 recently has been improved. He revealed that the War Production board has agreed to permit an increase in farm machinery production from 23 to 40 per cent of the 1940 level and an increase in repair parts to 160 per cent of the 1940-41 average. The petroleum administration has promised full gasoline supplies for food production, even if further cuts in civilian supplies should be necessary, he added.

COAL:
Take and Give

Reversing the procedure of "give and take," Fuel Administrator Harold L. Ickes announced a new "take and give" policy as an insurance against any new coal emergency. The doughty interior secretary set up machinery by which he may take coal from persons or plants with safe margins of supply and turn it over to those caught short.

The action was taken at a time when coal miners of the nation were at work on a 15-day truce before final settlement of wage demands had been made.

Mr. Ickes issued regulations setting up procedure under which he could act to protect war plants and essential civilian users from shortages, regardless of whether they arose from a work stoppage in mines, faulty distribution or other causes.

CONTROVERSY:
Russ Add New Fuel

More fuel was added to the flaming Russ-Polish controversy when the Soviet foreign office charged that cabinet officers of the Polish government-in-exile had engaged in espionage activities against Russia. To this charge the Reds added the further allegation that the Polish government had refused to permit use of Russian-trained Polish troops on the Soviet front.

United Nations' chancelleries had previously been heartened over the prospects of a resumption in Russ-Polish relations when Premier Josef Stalin had advocated the establishment of a strong and independent Polish state after the war and suggested a Polish-Russian pact directed against Germany. Observers viewed the Soviet foreign office's supplementary charges as an indication that while Russia desired good relations with Poland, it was bitterly at odds with members of the present government-in-exile.

Stalin's statement appearing in a letter to Ralph Parker, Moscow correspondent of the New York Times, had unequivocally endorsed the idea of a strong and independent postwar Poland and declared that future Russ-Polish relations should be on the basis of "good neighborly relations, or an alliance against Germany should the Polish people desire it."

DRAFT:
Fathers by August

Nation-wide induction of fathers into the armed forces will be started by August "if not sooner," Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey announced. In a subsequent move Selective Service headquarters issued instructions under which fathers in 35 listed essential industries may be given essential deferment. Observers believed that the new order indicated that the ban against the induction of fathers soon would be lifted.

Under the new instructions to local draft boards, care will be taken to keep fathers in essential occupations out of the armed forces until fathers working in less essential jobs have been inducted.

General Hershey ordered all essential war production employers to file with draft boards evidence of their employment of men who maintain bona fide homes with children under 18 years of age and born before September 14, 1942.

PACIFIC:
U. S. Air Upsurge

Surging American air strength took its toll of the Japs in widely separated actions on the far-flung Pacific front.

In the foggy Aleutians off the North American mainland American bombers kept up their incessant aerial pounding that has prevented the enemy from completing the airfield that has been under construction for several months on Kiska island.

Reporting an action of tremendous implications because it showed that heavy reinforcements had reached the U. S. air forces in China and that enemy bases near to Japan were now being laid open to our attacks, Lieut. Gen. Joseph Stilwell's headquarters in China reported that newly arrived four-engine Liberator bombers had "pretty nearly wiped out" a Jap airport on the southern end of Hainan island.

From American army headquarters in New Delhi, India, came the announcement that U. S. heavy bombers had dropped more than 30 tons of bombs on Japanese installations in Toungoo, Burma, in the Mandalay area, blasting the enemy headquarters there and causing severe damage to other buildings.

In the Solomon Islands American planes continued their attacks on Jap positions, raiding Vangavanga and Ringi Cove on the island of Kolombancara, as well as Ritaka bay and Kila.

ALIEN BUSINESS:
Now in U. S. Hands

The United States has thrown back the economic invasion launched nearly a quarter of a century ago by the aggressor nations with whom we are now at war, the Office of War Information announced in making public figures showing that $7,000,000,000 in assets of enemy and enemy-occupied countries are now under control of the alien property custodian.

"Every company in which Nazi influence was known to exist has been Americanized," the OWI said. "These companies are now giving valuable support to the war and are playing an important part in helping the nation meet its production goals."

More than 2,000 such business firms are operating under licenses from the treasury department. A total of 41,277 patents and pending patent applications owned by enemy nationals are now under control of the alien property custodian.

FEDERAL PAY:
Upped for Workers

The house completed action on legislation previously adopted by the senate, raising the pay of federal employees who make less than $10,000 a year.

The bill provides a flat $300 increase yearly for workers in the lower salary brackets in the executive departments, whose pay had not been brought to this level by a previous 15.2 per cent raise based on increasing the regular work week from 40 to 48 hours.

HIGHLIGHTS . . . in the week's news

LOS ANGELES: Government orders for tuna packs as a food plan and requirements are keeping southern California tuna products from sale at less a fee. It was announced by the Food Distribution Administration. The new regulations, it said, is aimed at those plants is causing human beings suffering from stock, and canning for purposes for munitions purposes.

CHICAGO: Americans farm personnel should become "sitting ducks" when cattle will find plenty of succulent forage, instead of "grain-fattened" when animals begin their migration in a frantic search for food, the Wildlife West Soil Improvement committee believed. The committee's recipe for postwar improvement included the application of phosphorous and potash.

GRASSROOTS

by WRIGHT A. PATTERSON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

BUYING BONDS THE 'EASY' WAY

THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS worth of bonds, which Uncle Sam asked us to buy during the Second War Loan drive, and which we did buy, is a lot of money. To provide that amount would take practically all the coins and folding money in the United States if we were to put up the cash. But that is not the way it works.

John is working in a war industry plant. His wages amount to $50 a week. Each Saturday night, at his request, a $5 bill is withheld from his pay envelope to apply on his war bond purchase. That $5 bill is deposited in a bank to the credit of the United States. John spends much of the remaining $45 for things he needs, or deposits a portion of it in the bank. Out of what he spends, other Johns and Marys are paid, and they, too, buy war bonds. Out of what John deposits, the bank buys war bonds.

John's weekly pay is but a portion of an ever-revolving fund. Week by week it is paid to the government and again paid out to those producing what we must have to win the war. Week by week the ghost continues to walk because the Johns and Marys are financing their jobs by buying government securities. What they pay comes back to them, and in addition they have their government's IOU and will in time get it all back, plus interest.

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CAPITAL NECESSARY TO KEEP LABOR AT WORK

BILL JONES has a job. That job provides food, clothing, shelter, a car, tickets for the movies, and other luxuries, as well as essentials for Bill and his family. To enable Bill to have a job means an investment of $8,000 in tools, including factory building and other essentials of production. Bill did not have $8,000, and others had to provide the tools which made Bill's job possible. It was the American capitalistic system that provided the tools.

For each man who has a job in an American factory, there is an average of $8,000 invested in the tools and buildings which make a job possible. It means a total investment of something like 480 billion dollars. That is America's working capital which provides jobs for our 60 million workers. If we make it impossible for capital to provide the tools, we take away the jobs that support workers and their families.

That is what we are doing right now. The war will be over some day and then new tools must be provided to replace those used in war production. With government taking out of industry all industry can earn, leaving nothing with which to provide new tools, Bill Jones, and his co-workers, will be without jobs. We will have won a war and lost a peace. We will have destroyed the American system of free enterprise.

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LABOR MONOPOLY AND GOVERNMENT

A BILL that would curb some of the more atrocious activities of the labor racketeers was introduced in the Colorado legislature. The bill, if enacted into law, will give union members control of their own organization by forcing regular elections of union officers by secret ballot, as well as forcing union officials to account for union receipts and expenditures, and calling for a secret ballot of members before a strike can be called. The self-appointed, self-perpetuating union officials notified the state government that if the legislature passed the bill, the law would not be obeyed. The labor racketeer has been cajoled and appeased until he considers himself above the law. He will permit no interference with his self-given right of extortion from those whom the government forces into union membership if they are to have a job.

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TOP-HEAVY BUREAUS IN GOVERNMENT

SAMUEL INSULL created a great public utility structure by building corporations on top of corporations, until the top-heavy organization toppled over, and in the crash the public lost millions of dollars. To prevent a recurrence of such a catastrophe, congress created the SEC. But the government is not taking its own medicine. Bureaus and departments are being built on top of other bureaus and departments, until government has become as top-heavy as was Insull's public utility structure. There is a limit, and should a top-heavy government topple over, the Insull failure would be but a drop as compared to an ocean of disaster.

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DEBT LIMIT AND THE FAMILY

CONGRESS RAISED the federal debt limit to 210 billion dollars and it will reach that point by the end of this year. That means each man, woman and child has been mortgaged for $1,612, and over each family of five there is a mortgage of $8,060, on which there is an annual interest charge of not less than $161 for each family to pay. Our indebtedness at the close of 1943 will be eight times what it was at the close of the First World war.

Washington Digest

Air Corps Cuts Red Tape With Absorption of CAP

Student Pilots of Civil Air Patrol Are Vital Link In Nation's Defense Chain; Valued Services Now Recognized.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

As the tempo of American activity on the foreign fronts moves with an accelerated beat, it is pleasing to note that a lot of red tape in Washington is being rolled up and chucked into official wastebaskets. One example is what the air corps is trying to do to utilize every ounce of human and material resource that is available.

When war comes, there is always a sharp cross current of human emotions—the good old one of self-preservation, and the equally old and much better one, from the standpoint of the nation, of patriotism. And, for opposite reasons but with the same result, both meet with obstacles. Many injustices occur in the selection of men for military service. Many ardent and valuable men are stopped from rendering the service of which they are capable and which they are anxious to furnish.

Red tape is the answer. But red tape is bound to tangle any herculean effort when a peaceful nation turns into a belligerent.

Drab Duties

The latest step in removing the red tape that was holding back a lot of valuable human power was the absorption of the Civil Air Patrol by the air corps. As this is written, the decision is being made as to which administrative group will take over this body of patriotic fliers who have been furnishing their own planes and their own services, unsung and unhonored. Most of their duties have been drab, and in many cases, stultifying because of their indefinite, quasi-military status. They are not a part of the air corps.

Another important step forward is also under way which will bring that group of unselfish young men into active service after months of morale-breaking waiting—I refer to the Civilian Pilot trainees, most of whom are now sure of active duty as instructors or flying cadets. They, too, have worked without compensation other than subsistence, and have sacrificed time, earning capacity and opportunity to continue their normal civilian careers. They are now being gradually absorbed into the air corps, too.

Few people in the country outside of the families of the members are familiar with either the Civil Air Patrol, the student pilots of the War Training program or even that other group of a million and a half volunteers who make up the aircraft warning service.

The Civil Air Patrol received some publicity for its important part in offshore duty in the campaign which stopped the submarine activities off the eastern coast of the United States. These men were pilots who owned their own planes, took their special training and received only gasoline and a small fee for depreciation while on active duty.

Spotters for 'Tough Guys'

They are a vital link in that chain of air and surface guardians who watched our waters from Maine to Florida. They could spot a sub, immediately report it to the nearest bomber or a fast coast guard or naval vessel. Some of the civilian planes were equipped with light bombs but they were not able to make much use of them because their planes were slow and a sub on the surface could spot them as quickly as they could spot the sub and crash dive. That can be done in seven or eight minutes and since visibility may extend 15 miles, the sub could hit bottom before the pilot could get over his target. Their chief function was to play bird-dog for the "tough guys" carrying heavier depth bombs.

Civil Air Patrol did invaluable but less romantic service in carrying vital machine parts between factories. It is now possible that some of these men and women in the interior of the country who have been making uninteresting overland flights from here to there may get a whiff of sea air, too. In any case, the red tape between them and the air command has been severed.

If not technically, at least practically, "they're in the army now."

As to the boys in the CPT war training program, who have been warming benches and waiting at nothing per diem, a bill in congress is about to give them pay as reservists and as soon as equipment enough to accommodate all of them, those unqualified for cadet combat training will probably have jobs as instructors or trainer pilots soon.

Status Unchanged

The last named group, the plane spotters, operate under the Ground Observer Command, and their functions are such that their status will not be changed, they are a part of the Office of Civilian Defense.

This group is made up of volunteer workers working with manpower experts, in connection with the vast network of telephone and telegraph connections which lace our entire coastline, east, south and west.

They total a million and a half people and the OCD calls this work done by the volunteers, the most arduous and technical job undertaken by civilians. It consists in spotting, reporting and recording all aircraft. Not a plane appears in the air that is not checked and accounted for. If it can't be identified, blackout ordered until it is.

Most of the volunteers are women and many more are needed. The work or job is described as being interesting, exciting and tough. The actual observation centers where these people work are guarded by soldiers and no one is allowed in who doesn't work there or have official business.

Here dozens of girls work around a gigantic table map of the area. They wear telephone headsets and, like operators pieces like a regular telephone operator, listening to the reports and moving little markers, or "pips," representing planes, around the map with long wands.

These girls are the end result of operations which go like this:

The spotter out on top of a building or hilltop sees a plane. The message comes in as follows: "Bomber on bi high west 10 miles." The girl puts the pip on the spot on the map corresponding to the spotter's report. The details of the plane and description of plane are recorded on a marker on the pip. As the plane moves, it is reported by each spotter in succession and the pip moved along on the map. But until the spotters have made the same report it is not considered correct—for geese look like planes sometimes.

Method of Operation

After the third report, the girl watching the board from a platform above, reports it to the operations room, which may be in another city. This point is the nerve center. Then here again, the planes are tracked by Army men and Civil Aeronautics administration officials who are continuously receiving information on every plane leaving the field to check this information with the planes below them. Every plane must be accounted for. If not—then I, if we live in that vicinity, hear about it—the air raid warning is flashed. If the flier has left the ground without clearance or there is some mistake hasn't identified himself, he is likely to see a pip after him or he might even draw duck anti-aircraft fire. The gunners careful our anti-aircraft fire is to be.

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About Nutrition

I received the following letter from a listener in Miami, Fla.:

"Those who know will tell you that the introduction of ground minerals into white bread is all bunk or sales talk. Canada and Great Britain will not allow it. The Pure Food Act boys know it is bunk. Just look it up and laugh. The people are not born today, they are victims of propaganda and high-pressure advertising."

I called up the Food and Drug administration ("Pure Food") and Commissioner Campbell said:

"So far as the nutritionists know, synthetic vitamins are just as effective as natural vitamins. This has been shown by extensive experimentation."

Before the order was given to enrich white flour with synthetic vitamins, lengthy testimony was given by leading nutritionists and doctors—men with no axes to grind.

My listener was undoubtedly sincere. He was sincerely the victim of his misinformation.

I wonder who started it?

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

"What is the shortest joke?" one Berliner asks. "We will win," is the reply.

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War Ration Book No. 3 which provides new stamps to replace those running out in existing books will be distributed through the mails to more than 120,000,000 individuals beginning late in June and ending July 21.

A man said to a waiter in a restaurant: "I'm going to have another cup of coffee." "Yes, sir," said the girl. "We'll serve you, man," "bring me a cup of coffee." The waitress did, he opened a cigarette case, took out a cigarette, dumped its contents into the coffee. There was his coffee, ruined . . . perfectly loyal. It would seem like a lot of trouble